

New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1487

Commission Conference Meeting
720 Edgewood Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

May 15, 2024

Present: Commissioners Kenya Adams, Carl Babb, Harvey Feinberg, Hector Torres

Absent: President David Belowsky, Commissioners Emily Sigman & Honda Smith

Staff: Director Gwen Williams, Deputy Director Stephen Hladun, Deputy Director Felicia Shashinka, Tariq Dasent

I. **Minutes of Meetings #1486: Motion to approve Minutes of Meeting 1486. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. Closed.**

II. **Treasurer's Report: No report. Tabled.**

1. **Veteran Memorial Monument at Long Wharf – Stephen Hladun**

Deputy Director Stephen Hladun requested approval to change the cross to a diamond near a name confirmed K.I.A (killed in action) at the Veteran Memorial Monument at Long Wharf.

Motion to approve changes necessary at the memorial. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. Closed.

2. **Quarry Park Updates – Tracy Blanford**

Tracy Blanford read a letter she wrote to the city in 2002 regarding illegal dumping along private land and Quarry Park. If dumping is on private property, the issue will need to be addressed with LCI. However, establishing the boundary line is the first step. A surveyor has been contacted and visited the property with Deputy Director Hladun. The entire process is estimated to take 3-4 weeks after the proposal is received and approved. Since this is a natural area, the surveyor suggested placards be placed on the boundary line rather than a fence. Deputy Director Hladun will follow up with the Engineering Department on projects happening at Quarry Park.

III. **Director's Report:**

Parks & Public Works:

- To date nine seasonals have started and continuing to recruit more.
- Rebid for infield grooming equipment as there were no responses received on the previous one.
- 3 responses to the request for proposal for parks concession partners were received.
- The tree division continues with tree removal and stump grinding. Commissioner Carl Babb requested a tree on Percival be cut as it is leaning dangerously low to the street.

Youth & Recreation –

- There will be a press conference for the two completed grant cycles (sports & pro-social activities and nonprofit expansion).
- Hiring seasonals. Promoted within the department which had led to one vacancy.
- Receiving one million from the state budget for summer youth employment. If all funds come through as promised Youth & Rec should be able to offer all applicants (over 750) employment. Offering employment does not mean they will work as sometimes youth

find other jobs, go off to college, or are let go by the employer. Applicants will be notified in the first week of June as employment offers can not go out until funding is finalized! It costs \$2500 to employ a young person for 5 weeks at 25 hours a week. Totaling about 18 million to hire all applicants.

- 3 pools will be open (Hillhouse, Conte West Hill, and Martinez) per the BOE. There is enough aquatic staff to cover the pools and Lighthouse.

IV. Old Business – NONE

V. New Business:

- Thomas Verderame duties have been taken over by Deputy Director Hladun until further notice.
- Dennis Serfilippi of 223 Alden Ave requested to place American flags at Beecher Park for Memorial Day. Commissioners approved.

Meeting Adjourned 6:18 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Tariq Dasent, Executive Administrative Assistant to Parks & Public Works

Next Meeting: July 17, 2024 **** NO MEETING IN JUNE IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH****

Location: 720 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06515